

>> Anyone else?

I'm here right now. Hello,

Marjory.

Thank you.

Let's start all over again.

I want to welcome everyone back.

Now, since we did -- let's talk about the minutes.

The first order of business to read the minutes of the last meeting.

This is going to be with sense of the -- are you in agreement for approval of the minutes?

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Chanel Sheppard.

If there are no objections, the motion is approved.

Now to Chancellor Banks .

Thank you very much.

I appreciate you and the way you are a leader.

A few things I want to share with people -- those who are listening, first of all, those who are observing Ramadan, Contento.

Mubarak is a growing population of observers in our city and I see you and we have a lot of respect for you and I wanted to open with this.

There are a number of things going on this week. I'm

excited.

Everything that is happening in the city.

Young people are involved in many activities, recognizing what is happening on our planet and young people.

The mess that adults have created.

When I was a kid and we talked about Earth Week, it was talking about the Earth. What we're doing right, now is the potential for cataclysmic damage to the Earth. It's very real.

It's very important that our children are involved. They are paying attention.

That is the world we are leaving to them .

The planet we leave to them, which is critically important that our children are involved and the existence of our planet is in jeopardy .

And it's not the children's fault, but unfortunately, the responsibility is theirs . Well, let's continue the present in their minds.

In all our minds.

It is also Immigrant Week.

What is interesting for that, at this moment, we see the problems. People coming to our country on a daily basis.

I am very proud of what we have done in New York with the Mayor's administration for those who are seeking asylum.

P.S.

51 In Chelsey.

To announce changes to admissions for the summer.

What an amazing school! Incredible school leadership. Very diverse school.

She has children, many children in temporary homes and the families she is seeking asylum have taken her in their arms and are doing well.

One of the ways -- one of the answers we're hearing to be sure. That there are parents who have not had access to technology to be able to get into the school. It will already be closed the entrance to the schools.

Many students who have special needs.

This year we gave priority to those students and we are sure, we are helping families to get them into schools.

They have to make their applications first, but we did a press conference yesterday and it was amazing.

We have room for 110,000 families.

We have to -- we want to double it this year, the first day, there were 30,000 families who signed up.

At the end of the day, on the first day, 50,000 signed up. And we concluded the second day by talking to you. Almost 90,000 families already entered their applications.

I was talking to the manager.

In sample demand, it is very high.

But since we finished this program, the schools and the mayor's office, since the summer ended last year, all this work, all this planning has helped a lot.

Thank God that the website, always in the past there were problems, it has been very smooth this year we are trying to improve it, to be sure that the children who have many, many problems we put them at the beginning of the line .

It lets us know that the families and the needs of the families are very great.

Parents need their children to be busy for academic learning and we have things that end in transportation problems, even during the school year.

We have to keep working.

I feel good about where we are from last year.

And I think we are going to have a good summer for all our children.

Another thing I wanted to talk about.

We are talking about a budget of 37 billion dollars.

A super large part of this I don't control, but within our budget that we worked with the percentage of contracts seems to have gone to black people.

It was 0.2%.

The percentage of Latin American organizations was Do you understand?

Think about it.

In a system that is 65 and 5% black and Latino.

But still, those who have businesses that want to work with our schools were closed to doing business with us.

I found a diversity office...

...where you find bumps, you have to dismantle them.

It's not easy and you don't do it overnight, but we are laser focused. We are already more than a year into the administration.

We are announcing that we have...

The goals that the regent has established, the city's goals, effectively, we have a goal of 30% utilization.

Indeed, the 30% target for subcontract utilization is immediate.

What is interesting about that, Corinna organized the meeting with printers, big business with us.

We brought a lot of people, people from the city. It's a new day.

We are not working with the old regulations.

We expect the NWBs, folks, you have to be at the negotiating table and we're going to try to help you, and if you can't, you're not going to have access to the contracts that come out of this administration.

The days of this are over. People need to hear this.

We heard from a supplier the other day, he was very concerned.

How are they going to do this?

We will hold the line and they will know.

The only way where we're going to achieve, where we have to achieve. I'm very excited about that.

Corinna is with us as well.

Can you talk to her?

Office of Diversity of the New York City offices. I want to leave you with that.

I have been chancellor for 15 months. It's crystallized for me.

Bright stars with futures.

It's just that's what I mean in that -- it's going to be Legacy's job of administration.

If you didn't see the article in the New York Times a few days ago, maybe someone can post it in the chat room that has access to the New York Times.

People are talking about this all over the country. I spoke to a secretary of education yesterday.

The article talks about the last 25, 30 years, our school system, not just in New York, in every state, has walked the wrong path.

And we are not teaching children to read.

Only 49% of New York City children can read at their level. Citywide.

These numbers are the same in black and brown.

They do not read at the correct, proper level.

We are going to fundamentally change that. As
chancellor...

to put things in their place.

What I fundamentally can't -- I'm not going to be here if I can't change this.

I will offer a prayer on May 3. We are still
organizing it.

I am as clear as this kind of work now all over the nation.

I may be older than most of you, but when I was in school it was the phonetic way to learn, to
turn words.

We have already exited this system and that is the whole country.

It's not just phonetics, access to high-level curriculum.

We have left all the districts to manage it and we are going to change that.

We are going to help the schools, we are going to have a little bit refined, how we work in this
job.

It is not working. We have
more than 500 schools.

>> We only have -- we don't even have 10 of them that have 85% with the kids reading at grade
level.

So, in the best schools in the city, that's not because of our teachers.

That's because we're giving them -- the reading framework that we're using is no longer, it's no
longer right and they haven't prepared the teachers that they're studying, that we've hired.

I am incredulous about this because since I have been here being crystal clear, all these programs that we have been talking about, we have not been as successful, how can it be, until we are clear to move the children to an appropriate level.

It is very difficult to have the whole future if children do not know how to read.

And we have a lot of our 8th, 9th graders who are fundamentally below their reading reading reading.

The system has failed them and this is a national problem.

And it's something that the whole nation is focusing on what we're doing here in New York to work with that.

We posted the article in the chat.

Please check it out.

It's funny because there are good comments all over the city.

I have spoken in many different groups that are connected with us.

Very rarely have I been asked how come my children can't read, how.... It's rare.

No one has brought that up.

They bring other issues and problems and programs.

But the fundamental reason why the Department of Education still exists is to make sure that the kids read, help them with math and all the other things, but it must have a literary foundation in place.

You will hear more about it.

And as I can tell you I'm excited because I've noticed that if and when we get this right, we're going to reach every school and every child.

We only have a handful of schools that not only a handful of schools should be fine, but all of them.

If we do the right thing and when we get it right, we will see how we transform the world.

It won't happen overnight, but when we get started, these will be the things that you will -
- more will be made.

When I provide more information in May three.

Madam President, thank you, I want to pass on to you, these are some things that I wanted to know that everyone got it.

Thank you.

Thank you, Chancellor.

It's always good to hear from you and the public wants to hear from you.

It's wonderful to hear your initiatives on things that you think you're doing. Before -- I want to say that we're -- I'm experiencing difficulties with the technology . So I'm going to ask my co-chair to come in in case I get cut off.

I want to be prepared in case of -- Before I go on, I want to say a few things about public comments and the rules for comments at this meeting.

During public comments, our producer Rebecca is going to call from the listing, as she said earlier.

So individuals who are going to speak on specific proposals included in our meeting, on our agenda, will have two minutes for -- two and a half minutes, if you do the public comments, it will be two minutes and if they are going to speak with interpretation, you will be given additional time.

A stopwatch will be displayed.

Your microphone will be activated and when you finish, it will be turned off and the next speaker will be called. If the speaker is not here when called, then we will move on to the next speaker.

When we move on to the next speaker, you may -- already lose your place in your -- in the queue.

Before I go to the cycle to vote, I want to ask if there are any members of the student panel who are.

I believe we have a new member.

I don't know if there are any other former or temporary members.

We have a member who activates his
microphone. Yes, we do.

Gaby will join us at the next meeting. Yes,
next meeting.

Next meeting, next month. Okay, so
my...

I'm going to call you my
daughter . I was going
to call you, my
daughter. Please
introduce yourself.

Good evening,
everyone. My name is
Sarah...

I am a junior in high school in Brooklyn.

And I am a student member at Prep along with Kathy.

And I will be from here on out every month.

I as a student and a young person, I believe it is my duty to fight for their students in the
school system and I want that being part of it, I can represent the students so that they feel the
same way I feel.

Students are part of the process of making schools better.

I learned to have more nurses in schools and as students we know how important nurses are in
community schools.

There are people who depend on nurses for medications such as asthma attacks and allergies,
but nurses are only there for medical reasons.

And they are not lasting longer because it is a health problem.

I personally, when I was in elementary school, before I met my counselor, my nurse was my
counselor.

And when I had stomach pains, she would -- we would talk to me, she would make me lie down and we would talk.

I would ask myself, "What do you want to be when you grow

up? Give me motivation about what you want to do.

Which middle school do you want to go to?" .

It's like having a counselor in a support system, having someone to talk to.

And delving into the issue of more nurses in the schools I learned some behind-the-scenes discrepancies and complications based on the Comptroller's reviews, which are delved into in one of the contracts we were talking to him about.

Why would we add 300 more positions?

And I learned that the Department of Education is giving less money to nurses instead of hiring them, and they are giving thousands of dollars to nursing agencies.

The Department of Education has failed.

It can adequately track and monitor reliance on school nurses.

The Office of School Health recognizes the deficiencies and has implemented corrective actions.

But my main concern is that they have to be vetted so that they can do the proper due diligence.

And the controller recommended that the Department of Education hire vendors for nurses.

It is as he is sent to get better and children who need medical care in the school system should be held accountable, if not, they should be investigated.

Thinking about accountability, what equality looks like in marginalized communities is understaffed and under-resourced.

And to prioritize student health in a meaningful way .

It seems that in past administrations they say that schools are the places where they go to learn as a place, as a second home.

During the pandemic, homeschooling was like -- it was important that all...

When students go to schools, they feel comfortable even though they are at home and it is a safe space as well.

I hope that at this meeting they can vote and understand the nursing positions and bring better solutions to hire more nurses to support all students across the city.

Thanks to.

Thanks to...

thank you for your

comment. And we need.

My grandson was at the nurse today and the nurse was very conscientious when she called me and said.

That is very important. Of

course, sure.

We thank you and hope to see you working with you on the panel. Thank

you for having me.

You are welcome.

So let's continue.

The first item to be voted on tonight's agenda is the proposal for significant changes in school institutions.

Secretary...

can you please present the entire resolution for the proposed significant changes in school utilization and at the same time can we say that any public comments will be made and voted on after the presentation Secretary...can you please present the resolution for the proposed changes in school utilization?

Yes, of course, President Green.

I want to clarify about the process here.

Public comments will begin on a motion to consider.

Then public comments will be made when public comments have been made.

Then we will consider each -- with each proposal from each county, one county at a time, they will vote at a time on each proposal.

I know it's a little confusing. I

just wanted to clarify.

We have 10 resolutions tonight on space utilization.

The first resolution with the title of the April proposal, to locate P11M and M028 in a place...

in about 45, 75.

It's at Mickey Mantle School 75 and has done and PS 28 or 6M28 in building 28 starting in the 2023, 2024 school year.

The second resolution has to do with the proposal to merge MS250 03M250 with Lafayette Academy 03M56 in building M118 in school year 2023, 2024.

I don't know if they are listening to feedback.

Maybe someone who has not turned off his

microphone. Please mute it.

The third resolution is the co-location of University Prep Middle School with Charter School 84491 with P154 with 75.

75.

And this will start in the 2023, 2024 school year.

The fourth resolution relates to the proposal to open and temporarily co-locate South Bronx Academy 07X640 with PS161 Escuela Juan Ponce de Leon 07X161.

PSX01775 and X61 for the 2023, 2024 school year.

The fifth resolution has to do with the proposal to open and co-locate PS353 at 048 at a new site in a District 75 school at 75X352 with Joseph R.

Drake 08X048 in building CX048 beginning the 2023, 2024 school year.

The sixth resolution has to do with the proposal to merge PS307 The Lisa Pineiro Fuentes School of Science and Discovery 10X307 with PS340, 3M48 in building 340 in school year 2023, 2024.

The seventh resolution is the proposal to temporarily open and co-locate the Bronx School with HS98 Herman Ridder with 12X098 Exploration Academy High School PS.. .

with Bronx Ambition Academy 12X511 in building X098 for school year 2023, 2024.

>> The eighth resolution is called the proposal ...of the Aspirations Diploma Plus High School 17K646 building K824 to building K907 and co-location with Academy Brownsville 17K568 and New Visions Charter High School 84K395 in the 23rd, 24th school year.

The ninth resolution is called The Purpose Opening and Colocation P811Q @, I mean, @Q756 in the new site existing district 75 school PS Q811 75Q811 with PS 156 Laurelton 29 @156 at Queens United Middle School 29Q289 .

The latter the proposed Long Term Placement of Bridge Preparatory Charter School 84R076 with the Michael J .

Petrides School 31R080 and the David Marquis School of the Arts 75R037 building R880 beginning in school year 23, 24.

Green. Thank

you. Thank

you.

I will now ask the panel if there is a motion. Thank

you.

There's a second. Thank

you...Sheppard.

Now we can listen to comments. Rebecca,

to facilitate comments.

Each person will have two minutes and then the official elected councilors. Then the general public.

Those gathered by the computer.

And also those who need interpretation services.

And if you are on the phone and want to talk about today's voting, press star nine and they will call you back to talk.

The first person, Josephine Ellery.

Now you can talk.

And you can remove yourself from the room where there are other people with -- much better. Go ahead.

My name is Josephine...

and I am vice president of Academy High School.

I wanted to talk about the co-location of the Brownsville Academy Building.

They are taking space away from us because it is not distributed properly. And there are classes that are overpopulated.

And also to mention with the classrooms we already have, there were six classrooms out of the 18 we have.

It has 40% special needs and we cannot meet the needs if you take away the -- You are taking away the opportunity to help this population.

But they are also taking away our financial opportunities. In

Campbell's office they are switching to a class.

That's where students get counseling and talk to them like that.

Basically what I am saying about Brownsville Academy is that it is a community school, excellent and with what we have we can offer opportunities for students to receive things that they can't receive at home.

Financial stability and mental health. We

need room to grow.

If with this change they are not giving us room to grow, the children are going to be overcrowded. The opportunities I have received.

I want those...

to offer to students after me and with what they are offering I don't think you can do this.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.

The next person to speak is a student. Janet.

Janet Jackson.

Hello.

Hello.

My name is Janet Jackson.

I was a student at this school.

Wait for me.

I'm talking about.

Switching to Brownsville.

I think we should not move because since I have been in this school, we have made a family, the people, the teachers and the counselors help with those problems.

And we can go to private rooms so they can talk to us. We have many activities.

Also the reason I don't want to change I have two specific people I talk to in this office and it makes me feel comfortable and things like that.

And I do not want to move because also many students.

I don't think it's right to go to another school with more students. It

will cause chaos.

I have

finished.

Thank you.

The person who will be speaking about the student is Ansel

Edwards. Hello.

My name is Ansel Edwards .

I am treasurer of the student government. This

school has been beneficial to me.

When I started in 2022, I had been in student government in my undergraduate career.

I was in several clubs.

And helping children who had anxiety.

And I am against the proposal to remove six classes and give them twice as many. It is not fair to us.

As we have several programs that are special in our school. And they are

40% of the special education population.

Without enough space, how is it going to work for

us? And in such small spaces.

The superintendent wants us to increase by 100 people, but how are we going to put it if it's already short of space and we need more room?

That's all I have to say. Thank

you.

Thank you.

The next one is...

Personally I am against moving Brownsville Academy.

Personally I have several reasons, starting with the fact that the students are comfortable, they are in a state of comfort.

We would be moving to a new neighborhood and there are problems with the area where the schools are located.

Switching to Brownsville would be another problem. They are going to be strong in their areas.

I think there are going to be problems between the two groups and I think we should not change.

Today there are rooms and people from the school team to help us and we can talk with confidence.

I believe it is a family of students and teachers.

As a family we can go to people we trust and with everyone just having a few classes it's going to be harder to find private areas -- it's going to give a lot of kids problems getting to school, because they already live far away and it's going to put them further into the city.

It is going to be difficult for them to arrive, arrive on time and arrive comfortably in the area where everyone lives.

There is family and, I don't remember the word, we also have cooperation with the building behind the school.

Let's go inside. Over there.

There are many more things that I can talk about for a long time. That's what I can say now.

Thank you.

Now is the next person... Good evening.

Can you hear me? Yes.

Good evening.

My name is...

I am the president of the 16th

district. I am usually here.

I am here to say what I support.

I am supporting a school formed by mothers.

I wish your school was open when my son was in school.

But what do they matter if in this proposal and also the chancellor, there must be other schools.

And thank you for listening.

Yes and yes.

Speaker Mark Gonzalvez. Good

evening.

Can you hear me?

Thank you.

Good evening and thank

you. For your time.

As per the meeting on April 3, I am fully open as a partner. I have to

listen to the community.

And the community that is against this MS250 proposal.

The people of the family and students in Lafayette, next to Lafayette are also against. of the

MS250 is against, ...is also against.

We have three schools that everyone was against.

We did not hear from an individual family or students who were in favor of this gathering.

And if you look at the numbers, you can understand why.

Let's be clear, the numbers are -- the numbers are not good for any of them. We have Lafayette with 158 students.

The two schools are small, they are not sustainable as such . The problem is, and that we must public analysis .

Yes, there are 170 students, from 158 to 170 next low to the proposal. We will be the next one.

>> We are going to go to Lafayette with someone else or close Lafayette. We need to stick to a plan.

No one should.

We know that we have to start ...by this plan. It is a plan to fail .

We're going to have to go back to the same thing next year and look for another unification or another closure. And that is terrible.

When you see how this is coming together, this is not a union.

It is only closing the MC and according to the Department of Education, only two students will be affected.

Moving 12 of the 99 makes no sense.

I beg you to...to vote "no" in joining this. Thank you.

Thank you.

The next speaker is... Good evening.

My name is Daniel and I am the president of District Seven.

We have welcomed Literacy Academy of the Bronx with open arms.

We believe the school supports students and students with reading disabilities. The South Bronx has different cultures and communities.

We can find all of our values for students who want to -- When we support students who want equity in education.

District seven members support the Bronx Literacy Academy. Good.

You have our full support from that and many families who will benefit from this school. Thank you.

Thank you.

The next speaker of the...is....

Please activate your
microphone. Thank you.

Good evening, Chancellor Banks and members of
the... My name is...

and I am the president of the Number 12 Student Council.

And I'm coming to ask you to -- For district 12, my council AND the entire community is in favor of this new school coming to district 12 .

We see this as a win, win for all Bronx students, especially those in District 12.

So please vote yes to bring this school, this campus, thank you. Thank you.

The next member of the...is....

Okay.

Can you hear me? Yes.

Thank you, Rebecca, good evening,

everyone. Good evening everyone,

Chancellor Banks.

...I am the president of DFS 17 and I am here to talk about two things that feel like they are related, but they are the same thing.

For the last six months or so, I've been working collaboratively with the team, with the Bronx Literacy Academy proposal and we've also been thinking about how to have a documented process to be able to more easily support .

And I am speaking in favor of these words.

We need them to receive the full investment necessary to make this work, because we need to expand this in District 17 as well.

This committee is committed, dedicated to transforming how children and teachers see themselves.

This is an autonomous school.

They are putting energy into the district schools to turn them into what we need.

And it brings me to the next -- Concern -- another proposal tonight is here in Crown Heights.

This is an original proposal to join the Transfer School in Brownsville. Only for a co-location to be proposed.

And I think the intent of this committee to... is
not to....

is not to understand -- it is deeply a message that is not going. I'm saying

we need a transfer school disappears.

Co-location means three separate schools in one building.

I fully understand that at least the Department of Education in this building and the owner of the building is asking them to move.

We need both Literacy Academy and Aspiration, because both represent what it means for the school community to respond to the children who live in Crown Heights.

We need them both and may they be successful.

We should say yes to 10 or yes to Literacy Academy, but no to the meeting or co-location. Thank you.

The next member of the...speaker

is.... Hello everyone, thank you for

this time. My name is...

I am the president of the...

in Brooklyn and I wanted to share my approval to open the South Bronx Literacy Academy with two teams that have been pushing for this -- for a long time, for the last two years during the pandemic, especially Naomi Peña and...

with whom I work closely in the...

for many years to come, so congratulations on this massive achievement.

CS15 had this resolution 6 years ago and in this school they will support children with dyslexia and I hope this model will grow and move to all districts.

Please vote to open and temporarily co-locate.

I am pleased to start with these schools, but we have to stop all these co-locations.

There are numerous problems with having more than two schools in the same building and we really need to start looking at District 75's inclusion program to see how we create more of those.

District 15 CC is working on this resolution now, about co-location to pass it on and share it with you in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you very much...

Thank you.

The next CS speaker is...

He is in the room, so let's move on. Please

activate your microphone.

Hello.

Good evening.

Do you

listen? Yes.

Thank you.

Good evening, Chancellor Banks.

And to the members of the State Policy Panel in District 75. for

several years.

And this authorization is one of the things.

But I want to talk about the six co-location proposals for tonight in the boroughs of Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island and in the Bronx.

We just want to be in support, whether it's for new sites or not, we want to make sure that the co-locations are safe and that they are appropriate for the needs of all students and the community as well.

I just want to report that we are in favor of the proposals of five out of six with which we have concerns, with the UFT and principals, superintendents.

For the District 75 programs we have a concern that the entire population in this building they -- there are some that are with behavioral problems and emotional instability.

We want to make sure that they are going to be joined by the necessary personnel and school safety officers on the property.

We are trying to reconfigure about the classrooms so that there is less contact between two autonomous schools in this building.

We want to have this CS7 for people to vote on two priorities.

We ask members of policy to please think of all New York City public school children.

We know that rehab is happening tonight.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak and my CEC colleagues.

Publications are important for a successful and high quality education. Thank you.

Our next speaker is the elected official Assembly member, Robin Call. Good evening.

Good evening.

I am the Assembly Member .

And I support Brooklyn and give them the support to co-locate at PS161 for the 2024, 2023 school.

If approved, this academy will be the first public school designed for children with dyslexia and speech learning disabilities.

And they will be incubating in PS161 for a year before moving into their permanent space as a person with difficulty with dyslexia .

I am an advocate for students who are struggling like me.

I have been to many press conferences and meetings to bring this to legislatures.

This defines the property to release to each of the schools and this will help the students to work with their power in literature.

And I hope that in addition to benefiting students, SPLE will be a home-like school for the rest of the public school system.

I want to applaud Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks for working with literature and dyslexia in the Bronx and in New York City.

Prayers go out to the women who created the academy.

Changes have been made throughout the system and I am excited to share with them with the support of SLA.

I hope and I endorse, I continue to support LSE, the South Bronx Academy in any way that I can and I ask the...to vote in favor of this proposal.

Thank you very much.

The next speaker is elected official Councilmember...Sanchez. Activate your microphone.

Yes.

Then we move on to the next council member or alderman. He is Senator Brad Millman's representative, Ivan Liberman .

Hello, good evening.

My name is Ivan Lieberman and I am going to make a comment for the benefit.

Representing the 47th District of Manhattan.

I'm with both 50 and 57.

And currently our office submitted a public comment with MS50's concern with the community.

We ensure pedagogy, solidarity and each member of the MS250 has worked very hard to have a space that works and we want to make sure that they continue with their achievements.

Unfortunately, Superintendent Samuels and his team have expanded to understand, to work with these concerns when we sent him these letters.

We are confident that the district will do everything to ensure that students, parents and teachers are supported and empowered before and after co-location.

We are working to elevate the voices of all families and educators. Thank you for the opportunity.

>> Thank you.

The next person.

I work for Crystal Hudson Counseling. Various sections of Brooklyn.

I am here as your representative.

I will be reading the next testimonial. Thank you.

Thank you for giving the location now to another location.

Aspirations is very unique school that works very hard.

It helps students who are lost in the system, who are over age. And it serves low-income students.

It means students -- you have to find a long way to get to school. Aspirations has been part of Crown Heights for the past five years.

Two out of five students live in Crown Heights and half switch from other schools. Many have switched from Caribbean schools.

Any relocation the students and administrators put in, from the beginning is going to be the second move in five years.

How can we find students who can benefit from this program? Yes, and they want to be sure that the school is in a suitable neighborhood.

I recognize that the building is not very good and I think it should be in Crown Heights.

And it is part of the Department of Education's responsibility to find a suitable location for the school.

We need to work with Principal Fleming and to find a suitable location for the school.

The person.

Good evening.

Can you hear me?

Thank you.

Good evening, everyone. I

am here.

I represent the 14th District in the Bronx.

And I'm speaking for the meeting of these two schools. I

learned about this one six weeks ago.

I have spoken.

I have been to meetings with parents.

I have spoken to this union, I want to thank them, I have had conversations, including the parents' association, the leaders.

The parent coordinator, superintendent.

Everyone who has answered my questions. It is

not an easy decision.

And after this discussion, the physical plant is located, where it is located, it is not acceptable. And we have asked of all the opportunities, can we have a new building.

We can co-locate schools for PS340.

And the answer was no because it may result in fewer options for students. And after all, that this meeting is the best opportunity.

Because children can only have in the second or third, fourth grade, only one. We have to give the best opportunities now.

Not the best option in the grand scheme of things. We prefer to give a private school for 307.

But we are here.

The important thing is what I have heard from so many parents.

You have to honor the principal of the 307, the one who was named.

And that the teachers move to the new building and that all the programs move to the new school.

Thank you very much.

Let's talk to... Good

evening.

Go ahead.

Good evening,

everyone. I am...

co-founder for support.

To PS161 of the seventh district.

For me it is personal.

My son was named a problem child at the age of four, he climbed and collected books he couldn't read.

He felt dumb and fell behind on all items, although these are typical signs of dyslexia.

The school suggested...

And he was a colored child.

But we have resources. We pay

a...

We pay tutors twice a week.

Unfortunately, families cannot afford to pay for the intervention.

And I'm thankful that this would be the first school that's going to focus on kids with dyslexia and I hope that it's DLA, it can be a district-wide school and that they give kids the instruction that they need.

Vote "yes" for this school.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Counselor...

Thank you.

I am...

of the Upper West Side Sixth Ward. I

want to echo.

The senator said There are two schools in Lafayette.

And there is a proposal, they are different schools, with culture, they are different, they are very small. Support.

Yes,

support.

Yes.

And the superintendent of suggestions that have come from parents, from students on both sides and also....

There are many sub suggestions.

How should this meeting work? They need

a lot of support.

Opportunities that do not exist for the union to pass.

I'm pretty good at getting resources for schools and I already know the suggestions. We can implement what you are asking for.

And I'm going to be happy to do that.

I understand the concern.

I have been in the discussions on both sides of two schools.

I feel positive that the parents have been very involved and the students and thank you very much.

I also want to say -- To put a break on Westside High School in Young Leadership.

Yes we are talking to the State people and hopefully we can come to a resolution. I want them to stay in their individual locations, but I want to work with the...

Thank you.

Rest in peace. Husband

of Fred.

He was the person for many years.

It was the only voice talking about phonics.

And I'm glad you're following up and mentioning all of his work. He knows exactly what I'm talking about.

Thank

you.

Thank

you.

Thank

you.

Thank

you.

Can you hear me?

Fantastic, my name is...

I have an eighth grader in Lafayette. Lafayette families.

I have participated in several meetings over the past few months with the district and we have expressed our concerns with the merger of the two schools.

As an additional proposal he did not give the financial situation necessarily to make the union.

I feel that I wanted to put you in a more difficult situation and that it will not provide for the academic and social needs for the students.

But we have also accounted for the decline in students and funding for schools.

The community appreciates.

Mr. Samuels who has listened to us during this process.

As we have not received a commitment from the Department of Education, Superintendent Samuels.

He says he gives us the money for the resources it seems.

We have faith if they give the money and the money to put the team with their vision, they are going to get it with the success we have had through the last nine years at the base of this.

You are going to see a significant increase.

And with children with special needs. We think it's

going to be an additional ICT class.

We asked the Department of Education to provide education funding for the IEP during the budget process.

Lafayette Academy is a very nice community and if this union happens and they are going to welcome us, it would already be part of Lafayette, part of new families.

Thank you for listening to my comments.

Thank you.

The next one that speaks...

Good evening, panel, students, guests. I'm here

to speak on behalf of the South Bronx. Co-

location.

I am the CEO of Literacy Partners.

We are in an adult organization.

My organization serves adults who went through the school system without receiving a proper education in New York and elsewhere.

We've seen in a lot of detail what happens with people who don't have a solid foundation, a solid foundation of reading and writing.

It gets harder for the writer. Tonight

he has a chance.

Sorry to interrupt. We're having

trouble hearing you. You started

out strong.

Speak up or use a microphone. Thank

you for knowing that.

You have an opportunity today.

To have equity.

For justice.

To correct the shortcomings of our system. To

give root to this school.

To help the academy in the South Bronx for children with dyslexia.

You have this rare opportunity for parents to bring together leaders from several

schools. Everyone has the same right.

Difficult to understand.

The interpreter cannot be understood.

Fundamentally change the course of history.

And set the system in a new direction.

And the...

They are developing in the South Bronx.

And I am glad to be in front of you to give me support. And I am in favor of this proposal.

>> Thank

you. Thank

you.

The next speaker is...

Please activate your

microphone. Thank you,

Chancellor Banks...

I am...

and I am the co-founder of Literacy Academy.

And I started by my mother working with the public schools so that neither my -- me.

Eventually she was elected to the CEC and all my teachers had a great relationship with the teachers and the principals.

We had resources, district schools .

I made sure that the kids review everything, everything that parents should do, when we knew that, and none of these assured us that our kids learned to read, but I also didn't know what destructive behaviors, shaming, looked like.

I was in the principal's office every other day, stressed out and was angry. Every

spring the teachers who had improved, what was the disconnect?

Which one was so -- so angry?

He was exhibiting harassing behaviors.

The last -- the next day in the play area, I met a in another mother who said to me I don't think I know anymore how bullying can be a symbol of dyslexia.

I want to tell you, because I was fortunate enough to take my child to the school where he was taught to read.

And it wasn't just that I was learning, but I wasn't being pulled, or pushed, or accommodated.

He was finally in an environment where he was challenged and experiencing academic success. But I also know that my son is an exception.

Only this education is for the privileged few, for black students and students of color with disabilities and English language learning.

But what we don't know is what we have -- we can do this in a public setting. I ask you to please vote to open the South Bronx Literacy Academy.

But please, as the chancellor said, there is a lot of work that should have been done and there is nothing to fix our literature crisis .

This school is a beacon of light.

Thank you.

Thank you.

The next speaker is...

Hello.

Good evening. I

am...

and I am the proud PFT representative and founder. I

want to say that I am not refusing this proposal.

We understand that Aspiration needs a building and that's why it has to come to Brownsville.

It is being asked to grow by taking away office space.

Brownsville was founded because other traditional schools were renovating buildings 20 years ago.

Yesterday we tweeted about how to protect our school, because a transfer school is not considered the best resource.

But regardless of finding space for a smaller school, we are working with admissions and it breaks the heart that new schools are joining or co-locating or relocating or closing.

Think about the message we send.

Think about how many times we are...to our population.

How much more time in the future will this proposal go through tonight? The proposal for the community school has nothing to do with this.

Find another building for Aspiration.

The Department of Education has the capacity to do this. They deserve it, West Side deserves to have their mental health clinic.

And that other schools have their own space to serve the community.

If we are talking about two additional transfer schools, I think we will not be able to grow as we should.

I couldn't agree more.

Create a CEC for a transfer school in Charleston and you send it to make sure that the classroom layouts are the same.

And fair.

Vote no or postpone it. Listen

to our community. Thank you

very much.

And I would like to thank all the members of the... who have responded.

And to other elected officials, parents and students who have really done a great job throughout this process.

I am very, very proud of them. Thank
you.

Thank you.

Next speaker is...

Good evening, thank you for the portion that you give me to
speak. I am...and I am representing Senator Mauri.

She is proud to represent Crown Heights AND because 90% of Aspiration's students are low-income.

What these families need is a new relocation. That is why...
member of the Board...

that are proposed to the -- to this school move. The
school is rooted in the community.

I believe that if that is why, it stays in the community and if we move it for a new location, this location can be selected in Crown Heights.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.

The next speaker is...

Thank you to the panel members.

My name is...

and I'm the co-founder of the Literacy Academy and I'm talking about opening and co-locating at the Bronx Literacy Academy in the seventh borough.

I came to this job on a personal and professional basis.

I have worked for the New York City Department of Education for 25 years.

I started as a classroom teacher in the Bronx and my career was in...

When my own child was diagnosed with dyslexia eight years ago, like many other parents, I knew something was wrong with my daughter.

It took hours of fighting and tears to do the tasks.

I realized it when I explained to him what dyslexia was and that he was not stupid. I

remember that he still makes mistakes.

Based on my own son's difficulties.

I want you -- I've brought what I do in my career.

I remember, as a third grader, talking to Jaden, a student. He couldn't read.

And I was with -- Then later on, when I was working with a transfer school, I was in the back of the school.

Then I learned about this program for students with dyslexia, and in that school and other schools they have failed students, mainly students of color, who were never taught to read.

So I sent my son to a private school to learn to read.

And that is why I have my energy in this work and I ask you not only to support the opening of this school, but to continue to grow and support these schools.

We are at -- we have the highest equity issues in our city to date. Stay involved to make sure these schools work.

Thank you and good night. Thank

you.

The next speaker is Sofia... I

don't see her in the room.

Then we'll move on to...

Hello.

Thank you.

My name is...

I am the parent of a seventh grader at Lafayette Academy and would like her to enter the sixth grade next year.

I am also the PTA treasurer and a member of the SRT.

I have been involved in discussions about this union. Yes.

During this discussion, the Department of Education has discussed the needs.

The Department of Education says Lafayette has an enrollment problem and that this union would be to save it.

That school was founded as a small school nine years ago and yet it remains the same, regardless of the drastic -- drastic drops in enrollment .

But in Lafayette it remains intact. Even

they don't have one.

Yes, it is a space problem, yes, the Department of Education knows it is a space problem.

First.

The members of the...

The feedback is 100% . This is a
bad thing.

The Department of Education must do better. And
we all deserve better.

And despite this, we believe that -- It's not just an IEP teacher issue. The Department
of Education gets more funding to solve the problem.

These funds are used to finance the education of students.

We need more assurance for the processes, for compliance. Thank you.

The next speaker is...

Guillermo Vasquez and we are going to pause as we check with the Spanish line for three Spanish speakers that have signed up, Guillermo Vasquez, Rosa and Johana Gomez, are they on the Spanish line?

Are they on the Spanish line?

Please, this is the time to ask questions.

If you are in the Zoom room, please raise your hand in the Zoom room. Yes,

if you are on the Spanish line, press star nine or star six.

Asterisk nine or asterisk six.

This will enable your microphone so that you can make your comments through the phone. If you would like to comment via Zoom please raise your virtual hand.

There is Rosa in the Zoom room. Rosa
is in Zoom's room.

Rosa Are you here in this Zoom room?

Then we will move on to our next speaker, Naomi Peña.

Naomi.

Good evening.

My name is Naomi Peña.

I am in favor of co-location.

I am a mother who coordinates the collective. We
have 11 children.

We all have different -- we have similar stories.

I will quickly tell you mine.

All four children are dyslexic and my child first.

Even though with the diagnosis we...

your teachers said you were lazy or needed to read more.

He was also told that if my brown son who didn't read after third grade until he got to High School, he was so disillusioned by his school experience.

He opted for his GED.

In District 79 there are a lot of schools, there are a lot of children sitting in schools we have not done well to them.

And people say that things are going to get better, but no, I was one of them.

When my little boy entered fifth grade, I learned that he was reading first grade. It's criminal and unfair.

That is why I have fought to create this academy, a community where teachers make it possible for children to read efficiently.

We want a classroom that children feel supported even if they have disabilities, and ultimately we want a space where parents are at fault -- that they are not at fault if their children can't read.

And we give the power to all students, we owe it to them, although we did not offer it to the children.

I ask people to vote yes. Thank

you.

>> Next up is Jessica Johnson. I

don't see her here.

Let us know if you are in another name.

>> Good evening. My

name is Joel... .

I am the special education teacher and I am in favor of transfers from my schools.

I want to thank the students, the children who spoke on behalf of their school.

Many of our students have spoken up, wanted to give love and for taking the time out of their evening and speaking in front of the community.

I also want to thank the PEP partners and the officers that have been listening on the West Side and that -- that if you're going to talk about the -- We're not going to talk.

I wanted to...

Thank you.

>> Next up is Jeremy Tuttle.

>> Good evening, panel and everyone here. My name is

Jeremy Tuttle.

I am a master at Aspirations.

As the leader, I'm speaking in opposition of school. I've

been -- I've been a teacher with -- I've been a teacher.

I've seen a lot of changes.

I have worked with several directors.

I've given -- I've taught thousands of children and I've taught my students to be better writers.

He was a business

owner. He was a

chef.

There is no job more difficult, more stressful than being a school teacher, school, it is the most difficult job .

I understood that it is difficult to make changes, although with intentions. I managed to understand after many years.

At a time when there is a lot of social change, it is not easy to be a teacher.

Particularly in one of the transfer schools and more so at Aspirations. As you know, our school is asking us to move again. It will be the second move in five years.

Who has heard once, twice?

I think they need to know that forcing our school after we have worked so hard, after doing relationship, is the most, undignified thing that can happen to a school.

It does not end now.

They are moving us to a building that has four transfer schools in the building. There are going to be three transfer schools.

We have the same mission of providing an education to the children of Brownsville.

They need so many transfer schools for the expense of Crown Heights, if we have to switch to Brownsville.

The city is creating unfair competition for students. It is the most important resource for all cases.

Educators should cooperate, not compete with each other. They are wrong.

We are asking you to please give us time to find a new home for Aspirations.

We are asking the city to delay this decision, and to help us find a permanent location in Crown Heights.

We can leave them alone, and we can continue our work in Crown Heights.

Does not take –

>> As the next.

Fred.

Can you hear me?

>> My name is Fred Sakamoto.

I am in favor of the co-location of the South Bronx with 161 of 107. I

am an educator and co-founder of Leaders Academy.

I have had experience working with both public and private schools.

I have training in literature and 15 years working with children with dyslexia and children with learning disabilities.

I have seen the transformation the power of evidence can have in a child's life. Aside from having two master's degrees, I sought out training.

When I found it, I quickly realized, teaching these children to read, I didn't know how to do it.

I felt sorry.

Unfortunately, the preps don't prepare teachers for this. I am a member of a Facebook group of teachers.

The science of reading what I should have learned in school. That's 200,000 members.

We are not to blame, but many people like me are desperate for support for instruction on how to handle this.

This academy is going to be a beacon for the district's schools.

For a few hours of tutoring a week is not enough.

I would prefer these schools for special education schoolchildren because they could not receive it in public school.

I understand that the private tutor is for privilege, and receiving a private education is only for people with money and knowledge.

All children, regardless of race, have the right to a free and public education. All students have the right to read.

This will help you.

>> Next up, Noah Odabashian.

Noah.

M.S.

333.

Now it is.

>> Good evening.

I'm Noah Odabashian.

I am the co-vice president of the...

We are affected -- We are in the same building with this meeting of the West Side Collaborative and Lafayette Academy.

I wanted to be on the record to correct what Mark Gonsalves was saying. We have been neutral, pains to be with this.

We are not sure it would be good to have a meeting.

But also in the proposal they mentioned that there is a chance.

There is a chance that we can lose from 2 to 8 classrooms.

And I ask, what happens if this meeting passes?

They will create a minimal impact to the space we are using.

We have many very interesting spaces.

A room for speech therapy.

Students use these spaces and have benefits from their space, and it would be an impact to let adults and teachers not to disturb the children.

We have an opportunity here.

It should not be the children who have to fix the mistakes of adults. We have to get it right for the children.

Yes.

This has been pleasant.

Not me, I hope...

I also want to mention a problem with a -- We have faith, we have a principal, we have a fantastic superintendent.

We have faith that our children are considering them, first of all, I am not against or neutral.

The building is open .

Welcome to all students to what is a fantastic space. Good luck to all.

Thank you.

>> Next, Kari Marcu.

Can you hear

me? Yes.

>> My name is Kari Marcu .

I am a proud parent of University Prep Charter School.

The reason I am here, University Prep Charter School has been an influential part of my life.

He has been in the -- started in the 5th

grade. He is now in 8th grade with

classes.

He is learning new things, that he can read at a level where he needs to be to do academic things.

It was paused.

Can you hear me?

Can you hear me?

I don't know if you

can hear it. I think it

froze. I think I froze.

>> We listened to it.

>> Can you hear me?

Excuse me.

U opportunities as activities at University Prep are grounded in the community, with community service, teaching teachers to act, so they understand how to navigate the programs.

Sometimes there are times when kids can't make Prep University, who never went skiing.

He gave the opportunity to vi ajes, to esquia.

And there it was a place for snowboarding, after school programs to play chess.

Italian Club, went to Costa Rica this summer.

Those are things that University Prep has given my son .

Hopefully they will approve it and the school to give it the space it needs to expand and continue the good work for the community and for the students.

It is for District Seven, where the school is located.

I mean, I love University Prep, we are family with Principal Patterson, Vice-Principal Rodriguez.

Incredible work and is present for the team and also the students and the school.

The team, besides students, also parents, we are strong and we want to be heard by everyone and we want the proposal to be approved, please.

Thank you very much.

>> The next speaker would be...

Ana Isa Peterson.

>> Hello.

Can you hear me?

As a parent involved in different schools with three children over the past 12 years and current president of Lafayette Academy.

And I recognize that this unification process will be the first of many changes we will see in the district.

We -- If this union is made, we will be successful.

We will be used as an example of what is given to caregivers and school leaders.

Superintendent Samuel and Assistant Superintendent Graham, as well as other CEC members and planning leaders, are always available to meet with us.

And even if there are no answers together, we believe that the Superintendent's Committee is committed to success at Lafayette Academy.

Whichever way this school goes, if you vote for this union, you will build our community.

No positive impact can be made in the neighborhood.

They are giving us the financial and personal resources to support students academically and socioemotionally.

This comes to create and increase enrollment and also dual language programs and students with extended needs, and have students on IEPs to help students bridge these two groups.

Our families and our neighborhood will have a reason to stay in the city, in our beloved schools, beloved public schools.

>> Our next speaker is Deborah Harding.

>> Hello.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Good evening, everyone.

I am here to refer staff to the co-location of Aspirations and Brownsville Academy High School.

As a retired educator from the Department of Education for 27 years, I can speak to the merits of alternative schools.

They have become life savers for many students at other schools, and this school submits for students to acquire the credits.

Schools offer more individual instruction and social services for students facing homelessness, abuse and lack of safety, just to name a few.

These schools are facing difficult times due to the pandemic. Please do not penalize these schools with co-location.

Personally, I want to talk about the Bloomberg Administration ...schools for political reasons.

I believe this is the continuation of that agenda.

This co-location disproportionately affects black and Hispanic minority neighborhoods as in Bloomberg's day.

Y...

Neighborhoods are extremely territorial.

It is not a matter of bringing in students from other neighborhoods.

For me, as a young person, as a young kid in middle school, I knew that I knew drug dealers in my neighborhood.

And I dodged them daily on my way to and from school. Any student who went to that school wants to be there.

We will provide the student with a safe learning environment in their own neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Penny White.

Audio is disabled.

>> Yes.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Hello, good evening everyone.

I am a parent of the West Side Collaborative.

My son is in his first year in school entering as a 6th grader. Hello.

No, West Side Collaborative.

M.S.

250.

Yes, I'm sorry.

This is my son's first year at this school, entering as a 6th grader.

First he was nervous, and I felt it, when he started COVID in the middle of his junior year and the challenges that came with that to start a new middle school last year.

The changes were difficult for him, which can be said as a good thing for a 12 year old, he has been strong, and Collaborative has made that transition easy.

Children, they look at their well-being inside the classrooms. In fact,

this is their second semester.

I...

The school has welcomed New Yorkers with open arms.

And how devastating it has been, not only to stir up progress, as black and brown students have worked so hard after COVID.

The whole idea of this Lafayette and Collaborative has failed from the start.

Both schools have been lied to with lies and false hopes by the Department of Education.

At the time of the meetings, there are no answers.

We found -- we received notification as will be seen. And in

fact every single person who spoke opposed this meeting.

After confirming that the Department of Education has been lying all along regarding the needs.

Keep in mind that the impact of other changes may hurt our families and please vote no for this unification.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Mary Moore.

Moore.

Mary, I see on the panel.

Please activate your microphone.

>> Yes.

Can you hear

me? Yes.

Sorry.

My name is Mary Moore.

And I am a teacher and librarian at the high school, and also a long-time resident of the Upper West Side.

As a previous speaker said, I have concerns about the move to merge West Side Collaborative with Lafayette Academy.

I believe that students deserve their unique program.

I used to work in this complex at Lafayette Academy, at the Manhattan School for Children.

And I would like to see that everyone can stay in their own unique programs. We must build this unique program.

Students deserve to have a school that meets their needs and is not a numbers game.

I also want to read a statement, a statement in favor **of Brownsville and Aspirations:**

"I am here to support students, members and staff by refusing to co-locate.

Aspirations needs to be in the community and DOE must find an appropriate space.

Brownsville deserves to have all the space and resources it has to serve students well."

And I'm reading this from my colleague who was cut earlier.

Thank you for your time and please vote against the Brownsville co-location.

And consider not joining these two schools, Brownsville and Lafayette Academy .

>> The next speaker is La Toya....

Please activate your microphone.

>> Hello.

Good evening.

I'm La Toya...

Good evening to our chancellor, o u r panel members -- parents, teachers and principals, our students and staff.

I am a very proud University Prep Middle School parent and I am a proud University Prep parent and also a proud 9th grader.

I agree with my other University Prep parents.

My request is that the panel vote yes, please vote yes for University Prep Middle School to have its own building in its own safe space.

I should also mention that this school includes grades 5 through 8.

And there are too many children to keep on one floor, because we currently have one floor sharing space with two other schools.

You can imagine the time and effort it can take to get children from one class to the next.

This would be an avenue for chaos, tardiness and also potentially for children to lose material.

Learning must be part of the main thing, making decisions.

This is why we must take into account how this affects the present and the future. These are our future doctors, engineers, scientists, pharmacists and so on.

It is imperative that we do what is best for our children, because at the end of the day it is doing good, it has a good impact on their futures.

Please, panel, please.

I ask that everyone consider University Prep middle school having its own building and space.

I want to say that there are directors and staff and educators who are wonderful.

They do great things with our children and families.

They know all the parents, and we are families and we are a wonderful community. And it will be nice to have in our own building their own space.

Thank you and have a blessed evening to all.

>> The next speaker would be...

EFAR...

>> Hello.

Good evening, everyone.

Can you hear me? Yes.

Okay.

Good evening everyone.

I am a former...

I have been an 8th grader at University Prep and I agree with my former parents that we talk about University Prep, the success and its stability in the community.

I must say that University Prep has made a great effort. They

have been great to our students.

I support the children to help them reach...

I have never experienced any school as I have with University Prep. And I am

here tonight to extend this great commentary on their behalf.

I hope that they will be guaranteed the proposal for the outreach they need so that they can grow and serve the community more and more.

I want to remember over and over again that people ask, "Where does your child go to school?" When you say **University Prep**, they say, "I've heard a lot about that school."

Yes, it is a great school and more and more parents are becoming interested in having their children be a part of University Prep.

And I'm here to support the schools in the decision to open up the student body to have the expansion they need so they can serve more students.

I heard a father say that....

that University Prep goes beyond the kids, with extra curricular activities and with programs and giving awards and many different things to build and support self-esteem.

I am here to support University Prep and the venture so that it can be expanded. Thank

you.

>> Thank you.

Aquila...Next .

I see that you are in favor of opening...

>> My name is Aquila.

and I am co-founder of RC de...

I am asking for your support for co-location 161.

I have dedicated my time to create this school for two reasons.

I have a doctorate in clinical psychology and I have two white -- black and brown children with dyslexia. And I have two children with dyslexia.

Also my father -- they didn't give my father the resources.

And the same inequity for my family, to identify disability is almost impossible. My children... .

had the experience of having problems, but my children have two parents with highly educated parents.

We were told that our children had behavioral problems. That's how I know teachers don't have the background.

And that the children were still behind, behind and behind.

Because all classes require that children have to read. I know that the schools are not prepared to give...

But my children could never read, they were always behind and felt...

My children learned to read once they found teachers who know how to treat children with dyslexia.

And they found programs especially made for children with dyslexia. It would be a public school for children of color with disabilities.

I hope you will support the South Bronx so they can reach every corner of the city. Our future lives.

Thank you.

>> David Patterson.

>> Good evening.

I am David Patterson. I

am the 2019 director. U.

Prep was founded in 2008 and we have graduated 2000

graduates. Many have IEPs.

The middle school opened because there was a lot of demand, 15% of the schools.

We are in a union school.

All members of the teachers are members of the UFT. We are...

I recognize that already this proposal, which gives us two additional classes. It is half of the population of all students.

Among these classes, it gives us IEP services. One of the groups.

There is a teacher who is specifically trained to work with children with dyslexia.

These services are being provided every day.

In a room in a warehouse.

U.

Prep is very actively looking for -- well, we are disrupted by the COVID. We're with a real estate broker to accomplish this goal.

We are working in this direction with a very big effort. I appreciate this group for their support.

>> Thank you.

The next person is Frank.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> Yes.

>> Let me play my video. Now
you see me too.

Hello.

Good evening.

I am in special education... I'm
here to give my support.

There is a...

These schools -- the city has not been able to support these transfer schools from Brownsville Aspirations and also West Side.

Transfer schools are second schools, their second home.

Why isn't the Department of Education supporting them with more resources instead of making them smaller -- The district thinks these kids are less important.

If they get together, they are not going to be able to provide the services they need, which are part of transfer schools.

Support for university.

Why?

Because they do not repeat it, they need adequate space.

They want to be in their community and Brownsville needs more space in their building. It's a big city.

I am sure they can do better for their children.

Those children in transfer schools go to school, although they do not succeed and have difficulties.

Thank you.

>> Next.

Brianne Colón.

I don't see him in the
room. Tanya Frances.

>> Good evening.

My name is Tanya

Frances. I am a teacher
from Brownsville. I am on
the same side of the...

It has not been a transfer school.

To make ends meet, because I was working, because I was a transfer student, I had to travel to Harlem to attend an alternative school.

Co-location of these schools would be a disservice and a disservice to Brownsville as well.

As mentioned earlier, 40% of our population is special education, and part of our success is because we have taught those children in smaller classes.

It would be a reduction of space and would put the students –

>> It's saved in a minute if you come back.

Now with Olga Ramos.

Olga, please open your microphone.

Olga, can you hear me?

>> Yes.

Fantastic.

Good evening, Chancellor.

Thank you all.

My name is Olga Ramos.

I am the director of admissions for Bard Bronx. I

wanted to say thank you.

And express my excitement.

I am going to ask the PEP to vote on the relocation of Bard Bronx, Exploration Academy and Bronx Envision in the 098 issue in the 23rd, 24th school year.

My journey began in 2001 at Bard Manhattan.

I graduated with an associate's degree from Greek and switched my credits to Bard College and finished in two years.

I was the first person to graduate from college.

I went straight back to the High School to work on the admissions team to give the same opportunity to the kids.

Since that we have opened two other campuses, now on the third.

My job has been in Admissions and Outreach.

I have met many amazing families who have a lot of interest. But the commute to Queens or Manhattan is very difficult.

The new campus in the Bronx would be to have the class in their courses. 90%.

That is to ensure that this school is for the Bronx community. We have almost 600 applications for 100 for 9th grade in the fall. 60 applications for 20 seats.

2/3 are from the Bronx.

But there is definitely a lot of interest.

Finally, I wanted to make a few comments from the public.

We want to open a safe school.

Children can't go to school if they don't feel safe that there is respect and a -- That's the priority.

Thank you.

>> Morana Mesic, the next .

>> I am president of the West Side Collaborative Middle School and High School PTA. I want to start with the senator's representative.

Including us.

Many people have become involved.

In schools, in relationships with other schools involved here, as conditions are met.

We have never said this.

We have not said that 100% of this community is against this reunification. And we do not consider the union, but the closure.

Especially if you have the Academy's understanding clearly, that they will defend or advocate to have their director and staff decision .

We are.

The only thing that remains is that our students are black and of color. And

that they have the degree one that they currently do not have.

And they will meet or reach their low enrollment grade. This is a school closing.

Let's be clear on this.

And the only person who has seen these numbers.

In fact, actually, and I think the only person who has no fear or no retribution.

In fact, he is speaking the truth to us.

I would like to invite all of you to hold to Chancellor Banks' pledge that he made in District Three to lead strongly with what the community says and listen to parents and voices.

In a school, it is not reversing declining enrollment.

In fact, it is not an equitable way to listen to parents and students.

We are providing two petitions without any member of these schools being in favor of this reunification.

And I hope you read my email from last night.

>> Patricia Cristina.

>> Good evening.

I am the UFT representative for District 79 and transitional schools.

Reunification is not a welfare plan.

It is putting two schools in a place where there is no educational place. It's like everything instead of renting a space.

The classrooms are very small, not to mention the train line that makes a lot of noise.

Brownsville Academy was able to make this space for them.

They have additional space, yes, space that they use for the benefit of their students in a way that assists students to learn.

Having a larger school in that building with them will limit what Brownsville Academy can do with their students and what Aspirations will be able to do with their students.

I propose to work on something different with Aspirations. I have faith that this can be done.

This may take a year to find a more suitable space for Aspirations.

Not to say that District 79 with the research program in the Aspirations building is going nowhere.

And the additional reason to wait for time to find a suitable space for Aspirations. I ask you to please vote no on this proposal.

Show that you care about the needs of children in New York City. They are going to restart .

They go to a transfer school.

Please show them that they care. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Tim Castanza.

>> Can you hear me well?

>> Yes.

>> Hello.

Good evening,

everyone. I am Tim

Castanza.

I am the founder of Bridge Prep Charter Schools. It's in Staten

Island and Brooklyn.

Grades one through five on the campus of...

And when we were co-located in 2019, we are grateful for this opportunity to co-locate on this campus, because I believe it is a model of co-location with respect, collaboration and putting the needs of the students first.

Five years ago and in the next month it opened as the first public school in New York State to meet the needs of students with dyslexia and other language differences.

Five years down the road, I support the Department of Education supporting students in the South Bronx.

I look forward to welcoming SBA.

I am...

I want to take a moment to acknowledge that the work to support dyslexic students here in New York City has been going on for decades with wonderful educators and advocates, and on their shoulders they have put their work.

I am incredibly proud that schools -- And I hope to continue this example. For different trainees.

It is a commitment to affect our teachers, starting -- in the fall we will have a hands-on center to support teacher certification in New York City public schools.

The service center will be a place for teachers to grow professionally and to practice and supervise with OGA certified members to obtain certification for the International Dyslexia Association.

There are many ways we can help by practicing in a sector. I thank you for supporting our children.

I share the mission of co-location of these campuses.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Victoria Molina Sosa .

Victoria.

We continue.

I don't see her in the room.

Then she spoke.

Then we will move on to Shirley Kramer.

Please activate your microphone.

I see you as a panelist.

Do you listen now?

>> Yes.

Okay.

>> ...Sorry. Good

evening to all.

...I am the mother of an 8th grader at Lafayette Academy and a member of the school's NCNT.

And as a parent of a child with an IEP at Lafayette, I want to comment on how vital these special teachers and educators have been to my son's success at Lafayette.

The equipment is outstanding.

And it would be a service to all students who go to Lafayette Academy, even if they don't have the benefit of their support and skills.

And I strongly ask you to...

these teachers who are at Lafayette Academy.

Additionally, the Union will be bringing in special education students from Westside Academy and replacing with teacher approval, educators in IEPs that Lafayette does not have, but thank you.

But the most important thing is before this happens.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Estefania, who is under a different name. Please

activate your microphone.

>> Hello.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Okay.

Thank

you.

My name is Estefania Casas.

I am a mother of one in 9th grade and I am also a member of the CNCNT at Lafayette Academy.

I am also one of the founders and vice president and it is a non-profit organization for Italian bilinguals and multiculturalists in public schools and libraries.

And we support schools to read in two schools, including Italian and providing families with books in Italian, which is something different in finding New York City relative to the Lafayette and Westside Academy union.

Lafayette is a school that is truly diverse with the population, and we hope it will continue to be so, with bilingual or dual language programs in different languages for everyone.

And also -- As Chancellor Banks mentioned at the beginning of tonight it should be introduced.

We need to talk about all these global instructional things. To provide adequate resources in different languages.

You must proceed, this in pursuing and we are looking to work with

Lafayette. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker.

Daniel...

Please activate your microphone.

>> Hi. Good

evening. Hello.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Hello.

My name is Daniel...

I am the parent of an 8th grader at University Prep.

And to Mr. Banks, first, I want to thank you for your vision for children in New York City.

Three years ago my son had the opportunity to attend University Prep and the year after that.

He had to attend classes through Zoom, because the transition I thought would be a problem for my son, but I was happy that this did not happen as I expected.

Working from home, he was able to adjust to the transition without any problems due to the hard work of the dedicated educators.

I also want to say that U.P., in my opinion, is one of the best schools.

At the last meeting we had, there was a parent from the Bronx, who was one of the -- saying that New York City is not well represented.

I was happy to hear what Mr. Banks said about the kids and their reading at a level -- I'm here to ask the delegation to vote yes for this space that we need.

Also to thank the other schools, the U.P. schools. It is an example
of the U.P.

how do you make sure that our kids -- I know some schools have some problems with this, but I
have to say that when we put our heads together, there's nothing we can't do for the kids.

Let's continue to support our children and make sure they fulfill what they are here for.

Thank you very much.

>> Thank you.

Our next speaker is Lord Mendez.

>> I go.

I'm going.

>> Okay.

Let's go to Andrea d'Amato.

>> Thank

you. Sorry.

Can you hear me?

My camera turns on. Good

evening.

My name is Andrea d'Amato .

I am the director of University of Public Schools.

Thank you for speaking on my behalf.

Like many parents, it offers a comprehensive program that prepares children for high school and beyond.

We give a -- so that all children can succeed and reach their full potential. The demographics are similar to District 7.

We have many IEP children.

As David mentioned, we are a union school. Our organization was founded in 2008 with UFT. We are still partners.

Everyone is a member of this union.

We are very proud of the work we do for our students.

I know the students and family members who have spoken have been for the value we place on the community.

We have been at 470 Jackson Avenue for four years, and during this time we have been fortunate to benefit from such a deep relationship and establish such a profound relationship.

All of us, all schools.

Our team and apart with all co-located schools.

We all work together so that our students, students' safety is maintained.

Today we ask the panel to co-locate in this building and the opportunity to increase two classrooms and two offices so we can continue to do the good things we do for the children and students.

We are still trying to explore the private space and the options will remain open. But we ask the panel to vote yes to give us the opportunity.

Thank you.

>> The next one is Victoria Sosa and was before.

>> Hi.

Thank

you.

Can you hear me?

Hello, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this forum.

I am an Education teacher at University Prep Middle School. I am very proud to be a teacher at University Prep Middle School. We are in high demand.

It is an IEP community and there are many special education teachers to care for all the children in need.

But for the moment, but we don't have the space to support the students who deserve it. No, because there are no resources, not because there are no teachers.

But also for lack of space.

Teachers are noticing that they don't have classes, that they don't teach in every class. And speaking of them, I'm part of Prep's literature program.

I'm training and I'm trying to expand. And I've given -- sometimes even in the hallways.

Not for lack of resources.

And not for lack of teachers, but for lack of space. I am here to vote yes for the expansion.

If you pass it right now and give for these rooms. It has to go on, it needs high level education.

And thank you very much.

>> Thank

you. Next.

Susana...

Do you hear me now?

>> Already.

I mean, yes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. And

thank you very much to the Chancellor. .

and of the...

My name is Susana...

I am part of the team of 250. I

am...

I am in support of what Mark Gonsalves is saying and not having the meeting in District Three.

This has been unwanted by any of the communities.

I know that the number of children is down, but it is already growing.

The need for classes has increased by 25% since January and we continue to get children in each week.

And we want to have bigger middle schools.

A process needs to be created so that the voices of all communities are heard and all students are considered.

This is a closure for Lafayette.

But the philosophy is not in the same values of the West families. They do not take into account.

The needs of each school are very different, they have different philosophies and different types of students.

The Lafayette community supports various programs they have, but Westside is not interested in these programs.

Westside has been progressive over the last 25 years and in conversation I never saw any mention of preserving programs, portfolios, to name a few.

I don't think it's a good plan.

I believe there are better plans that can be more successful in achieving the district's goals.

Thank you.

>> Now the next person. Billy

Harper.

That I don't see him here in the room. Neither does Rochelle

Johnson.

Ellie Weiner.

Ellie?

>> Hi.

Sorry.

Can you hear me?

Can you hear me now? Excuse me.

Sorry.

My name is Ellie Weiner .

I'm a teacher at a transfer school in District Two, but I'm here to speak out and support -- support my brothers and sisters at the transfer schools in the...

and Brownsville, to speak out against this co-location. All

students will be better off.

They are all against this for valid reasons, safety reasons, not to have the same type of school.

The type of schools is totally different.

Only because it is felt that the services need internships, the space they need. You are not going to accomplish this by merging these schools.

There are better ideas.

I wanted to ask the panel to vote against this to show that the children are more, that we really love the students very much and want the best for them .

Thank you very much.

>> Thank you.

Next is Martina Meyer. Please

open your microphone.

>> Can you hear me?

Can you see and hear me?

>> Yes.

Thank you.

>> Thank you for your time, everyone.

For the people who want to speak for their schools. I

want to...

I want to give -- What I'm hearing, a lot of families talking about school locations, and I hope their voices are heard, talking about the person who just spoke.

I hope it does not pass the vote.

We are in a situation where we have two schools that are different, but similar at the same time.

It's very unfortunate.

It's not...

this space, there must be a place where -- and we have a situation that the people who are doing the panel are not listening, in many cases.

That is a consequence of being in the largest district in the country. They

have to listen to the people.

Listen to the people who are making an impact. I

would say...

that is a consequence of control.

We have to listen to the people of the community.

People should not be silenced.

They want schools to stay in their same locations in transfer schools. I don't want to talk about these specific schools.

We are in a situation, as we have worked in a school for many years.

In some schools, low utilization is an opportunity to expand space for students, expand programs.

I want you to consider them and anticipate the needs. Thank you.

>> Next up is Miriam Thomas .

Grant Thomas.

I do not see in the room.

If you are under another name. Now Dr. Randy Levine.

>> Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Randy Levine.

I am a director.

We want to support the opening of South Bronx University Academy.

Many children with disabilities such as dyslexia have not been able to get the instruction to be able to read.

Many times we need to take legal action to get tutors or tutor them outside of school.

We have not been able to help them in the public system.

Teaching children to read is one of the responsibilities.

Giving -- parents don't have to pay out of pocket or hire a lawyer for their children to read.

Schools that are on their own cannot be at the bottom.

They offer intensive instruction and help children with special needs.

We have to make bigger changes and as the city starts its programs better, they are going to serve as a beacon for teachers, to benefit students.

We are very grateful to the parents who came together to make this school a reality, after seeing the goals and the parents who talk to us for support.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Sam Burnett.

Please activate your microphone.

>> Yes, can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Hello.

My name is Sam.

I have been as a social worker and as a child advocate at the CBO located in the building.

And I oppose the proposal to co-locate our CBO.

Emphasizes some of the specialties of social-emotional support and learning, group activities, seminars and activities, open to youth for arts meditation groups with associated materials.

We have a recording studio inside.

Also for basketball practice, across the street.

As mentioned above, there are many spaces and buildings with social-emotional and academic support.

Where we are now the space offers significantly... .

I don't think it would be a physical space to have materials and programs with the same impact that we have now.

We have concerns about space.

What worries me most is that there will no longer be a transfer school and this school will be moving out of the neighborhood.

Young people at Aspirations High School, of color, will have to -- as Crown Heights is experiencing dumbing down .

These young people continue to serve and serve their neighborhood, with community relations, with internship programs.

These people will be displaced.

One of my colleagues told me at the last meeting that we need to invest in Aspirations. Keep

Aspirations in the community because it is an institution.

You must vote on this proposition to make a decision where all those most affected by this will vote for administrative staff, teachers, CBO members, students and parents.

It is not in the best interest.

And I ask the members of the panel to vote no or to oppose this proposal.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is Christina Gavin.

Please activate your microphone.

>> Hello.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes, we hear you.

>> My name is Christina Gavin.

I'm in 154 which is co-located in the building where University High School is located. And we are on one of the floors where the school is currently located.

This school is a District 75 school which, as you know, means that all of our students are students who have IEPs and we talk about special education.

We talk about moving students to a less restrictive environment where they can learn appropriately.

What we are doing is asking for a school with a more restricted environment.

In community schools they may not be able to receive the support they need, they must be transferred to other schools and art schools.

And in these schools the students are in small classes, because that's what they need.

Most of our students receive related services such as speech therapy, occupational therapist services, counseling and meetings with social workers.

Many of our students also go for technical careers in focus schools. Some of our students are off-site due to the program.

And we...

We are talking about the great resources that University Prep School provides to the community.

Our students stay until the age of 21.

Schools can bring more to the building, but sometimes students have behaviors.

Then we have to relocate these students to 1/3 of the floors.

Provide for students to take a breath when they need it to de-escalate. Unless you create more restrictive barriers.

It looks like it's very -- I could tell it would be an equal plan . Thank you.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

The next speaker is...

Please activate your microphone.

>> Hello.

How does it sound?

>> Yes, we heard you.

>> I am...

I am a math teacher at University Charter School and am speaking here in opposition to this school's proposed residency and co-location with Brownsville Academy.

As many speakers have said, Aspirations is the only transfer school in Crown Heights.

I would ask the Department of Education to postpone this to negotiate a temporary space for Aspirations to allow, for this Aspirations space to remain in Crown Heights because it is the only transfer.

Thanks to the Chancellor and the PEP for continuing.

I hope they do the right thing for the city's most vulnerable students.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker. It's...

I don't see it in the room.

Then we go to Dayana Rivera.

Please activate your
microphone.

>> Hello.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

Okay.

>> My name is Dayana Rivera.

I graduated from a transfer school in 1985 and I currently work in a school.

I feel like the Department of Education is making transfer schools a target for failure by moving them to communities that have been there for a long time.

Then they leave them.

Transfer schools are academically rigorous. I think moving these students,
moving students.

They set academic goals and there is also a career plan for life after school.

I ask the Department of Education and PEP to please think twice before moving this school.

Vote to save the community. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker is Dionis Andino .

Please activate your microphone.

>> Hello.

Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Hello everyone, my name is Dionis and I am a 2023 graduate, and I am strongly opposed to co-location with Aspirations.

It should remain a wonderful opportunity for those who serve for security and schools.

I came to this school and graduated early.

I -- It was difficult because there were a lot of family

situations. My attendance was not the best.

In a chaotic environment, I learned that my education was really important being in Brownsville and I was aware that I could have a diploma and the support and love to receive that diploma.

And being in a school that is so big, they forget who you are and your needs.

Being in Brownsville, it's a small town where my needs always mattered. I was hopeful, they shared the work with me.

I also had bad anxiety and I also had a lot of help, especially from Mrs. Francis, because she helped me to raise my regents score from 49 to 90.

My best friend also had the same problem.

Brownsville has served many struggling students on their own. I didn't think I was going to school until I was in college.

I have graduated.

I am thrilled.

I learned to do an internship to provide for my family. Give an opportunity.

These classes are really important and contribute to everyone's life outside of school. It becomes about something beyond the schools, from that to a family.

And I love this school.

And this is the first school that has gone above and beyond for me.

And they deserve to stay in this building and have the opportunity for people of color to succeed, regardless of where they grew up.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.